

Facebook Covid-19 Update #10

July 17, 2020

BallouLife Communities staff per Rhode Department of Health (RIDOH) continue to be tested weekly for Covid-19. The results from the testing done on Thursday, July 9, 2020 are coming in, and at this time, they are all negative. At least 25 percent are still pending. RIDOH is very much aware of the delay in test result reporting and are trying to accelerate the process and provide a solution. None of the staff are showing any signs or symptoms of Covid-19. We screen at the door and have not had to send anyone home.

We are in the process of testing the staff member, who had tested positive previously; she needs to have two negative tests prior to returning to work. She had one test this past week; the results are pending. The two co-workers, who had contact with her have both tested negative and had self-isolated for the required 14 days. Both have returned to work. The other staff member mentioned in last week's update, who had been in contact with a Covid-19 positive relative has since tested negative twice and did return to work yesterday. She had been in isolation for 14 days prior to returning to work. The staff member who had flown out of the country has returned and is now in a 14-day self-isolation. She will be tested this coming Thursday, July 23, 2020 and if that test is negative, will return to work. We also had a nurse who had taken a leave of absence and has since returned; she is also self-isolating for the obligatory 14 days and will be tested next week, and again, if her test is negative, she will be returning to work.

I literally just received a call from a CNA who was informed that a friend who she had been in contact with on Sunday, July 12, 2020 tested positive for Covid-19. She immediately informed me and has been removed from the schedule and will be self-isolating for 14 days. She had been tested on Thursday, July 16, 2020, and her results are pending. She will be tested again on July 23, 2020, and if both are negative, she will return to work at that time. It is a trying time for all, as you can see Covid-19 is still a looming threat and we must not let our guard down.

Visitation continues to go well. At this time, all residents have been reunited with their loved ones. I have seen repeat visits, and again so happy to see you folks; we miss you, not more than your loved ones but we miss you too. Thank you for waiting in your cars until we are ready for you; this keeps the flow moving. Next week will be the same number of visits as this past week, but the following week, we have made some adjustments to allow more visits and some evening appointments for those of you who work.

Jen is doing a phenomenal job. Unfortunately, the additional person we hired decided not to take the job, but as I said, Jen has managed to finagle the schedule to allow more visits to accommodate everyone's scheduling needs. If there is anything we can do that is within our realm to make the visits better, let us know. FaceTime calls with Tina will continue.

Negotiations continue with a new podiatry group; just a matter of contract language. We hope to have this resolved quickly. We are attempting to find a temporary hairdresser until Julie can return. The staff have been doing a great job with styling their hair, but I know they all need and are looking forward to a day of beauty. The girls try their best and honestly, I think they do a great job. Not only do they style their hair, they do their nails and make-up if desired. The results show smiling faces on Facebook. We are still working with Wisdom Tooth and are expecting some guidance from the State, as to when and how this will occur.

We continue to move forward as best as we can. The “new normal” is here and we have to abide by the guidelines provided by RIDOH, CDC and CMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Daly, RN, Infection Preventionist